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Reed Canary Grass or Phalaris

Northrup, King & Co.



**A Hardy Perennial
Which Succeeds on Soils
Too Wet
For Other Grasses**

Reed Canary Grass

REED Canary Grass is an extremely hardy perennial which successfully grows nutritious hay and pasture on many lands too wet for common farm crops. It will not thrive on land covered by stagnant water most of the time, but will provide abundant hay and pasture crops on land where the water table is practically at the surface of the soil all the time and above the surface part of the time.

Seed Bed Preparation

A fine smooth seed bed, such as is usually prepared for small grains, is most satisfactory. Where possible the best plan is to prepare the seed bed in late Summer or Fall and then broadcast the seed in March. The seed can also be sowed in late October, in which case the seeds lie dormant over Winter and germinate in the early Spring. It is also satisfactory to sow in May or June, where the land has been worked thoroughly and disked frequently to destroy weeds before planting. However, in a dry season, the seeds may not germinate until Fall.

Reed Canary Grass sod forms rapidly through the spreading of underground parts. Consequently, seeding rates are only from four to six pounds per acre, broadcast. The seeds should be covered not more than one-half to three-fourths of an inch deep and heavy

Phalaris stands
ing well if not to
ly grazed. Grow



Grass or Phalaris

rolling, particularly on peat soils, is desirable although not necessary.

In many cases, in early Spring, successful stands have been obtained by hand broadcasting on the frozen ground. Apparently the Spring rains bury the seeds sufficiently.

For Pasture

Reed Canary Grass starts earlier in the Spring and continues growing later in the Fall than many other grasses. New seedings ordinarily should not be pastured the first season and never when the ground is wet and there is any chance of the animals cutting through the turf. As a general rule, if sufficient growth is made the first year, it is better to cut the Canary Grass for hay rather than attempt to pasture it. When firm sod has been made, Reed Canary Grass can be pastured the entire season, although experience seems to indicate that more and better pasturage can be obtained during the year if the cattle are not turned in too early. When pastured too heavily and the grass is eaten clear to the ground, the cattle should be removed and the pasture allowed to recuperate. When the first crop is taken for hay, the second growth will

stands pastured not too close. Grows early. furnish pasturage through the dry period of late Summer when the upland Blue Grass pastures are dried up.



Reed Canary Grass or Phalaris for Hay

THE first growth of Reed Canary Grass increases in yield until the seeds begin to ripen, but as the plant matures the stems get larger and coarser and the palatability and nutritive value decrease. All things considered, it seems that the best time to harvest the first crop for hay is just after the first heads appear. This is usually about the middle of June. The second growth resembles the early first growth, but it does not head out and the nutritive value remains about the same for a considerable period. It is advisable always to utilize the second growth either for hay or pasture, because if left standing it seriously interferes with the handling of the next year's crop.



The Information In This Folder Has Been
Obtained Mainly From The Publications Of
The Minnesota And Wisconsin Experiment
Stations.

Photos of Pasture and Haying from Wis. Exp. Station



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